

Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination of the above-identified patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above-noted Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the present application.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency in fees in connection with the subject patent application to our Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

The Specification has also been amended to indicate that the present application is a national phase application based upon priority International PCT Patent Application NoPCT/JP2004/011568 filed August 05, 2004, International Publication No. WO 2005/015737 A1 published February 17, 2005, which is based upon priority Japanese Application No. JP2003-291614 filed August 11, 2003. The Specification has also been amended to include the section headings specified in the U.S Patent Office Rules, 37 CFR 1.77.

A Substitute Specification is enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.125(b). The substitute specification contains no new matter. The headings and format of the Specification have been amended to comply with U.S. Patent Office Rule 37 CFR 1.77.

Claims 1-17 were pending prior to this Amendment.

Claims 1, 4-6, and 12 have been canceled.

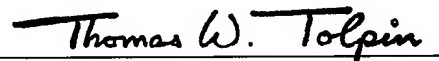
Claims 2-3, 7-11, and 13-17 were amended.

New claims 18-23 have been added.

Claims 2-3, 7-11, and 13-23 are now pending for consideration of the Examiner.

Examination and allowance of the subject U.S. patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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